

Congressman Steve King today announced a \$282,000 federal appropriation for the Hungry Canyons Alliance in Western Iowa has been included in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. President Obama signed the legislation into law today.

The Hungry Canyons Alliance works to research and implement solutions to the problems associated with stream channel erosion. Fine loess soils and their tendency to erode have caused many streams to down-cut significantly over the last 50 years, exposing utility lines and carrying away millions of tons of soil. Channel erosion has cost Iowa an estimated \$1 billion in damage to infrastructure and farmland.

“Iowa has been blessed with some of the most productive soil in the world, and we have a responsibility to protect its production capability while keeping our infrastructure and our farmland intact,” King said. “This funding, added with support from other levels, will go a long way in preventing a more expensive problem for our communities in the future.”

In requesting funding for this project, Congressman King complied with all earmark transparency standards, including a Congressional record submission that includes the name of the request and a description of how the funds will be spent.

When Congressman King initially requested the funding in early 2008, he did so with the understanding that his requests, and those of other members, would be addressed by the House through the normal appropriations process. Instead, all member requests were lumped into a single, 1,222 page, \$410 billion spending bill that was written behind closed doors, with no legislative review or formal member input. The bill was made available for public scrutiny less than 48 hours before Members voted on it.

As a result, Congressman King opposed H.R. 1105 during House consideration of the bill on February 25. The \$410 billion “omnibus” spending bill significantly expands the federal deficit and funds the federal government for a mere seven months. That’s over \$58.5 billion in taxpayer dollars per month.